

DAVID QUINLAN
reviews the *Predator*
sequel set in Los Angeles
in the future and starring
DANNY GLOVER

● THE chameleon killer is back. Once again stalking, slaying and skinning his prey, but this time in an urban environment, this almost invisible death machine strikes again, in Los Angeles in 1997.

The team behind his gruesome exploits here includes the director (Jamaican-born Stephen Hopkins) and photographer (Peter Levy) from *Nightmare On Elm Street 5*, plus Richard and Robert Greenberg, who created new and startling versions of the magical visual effects they devised for *Predator*, and are joined by the legendary Stan Winston, who created the Predator, and won an Oscar for his work on *Aliens*.

Arnold Schwarzenegger starred in the original *Predator* movie. Now it's the turn of Danny Glover to take the lead in this sequel. As cop Mike Harrigan, Danny says he's quite a different cop from the one he played in the *Lethal Weapon* movies. "In *Lethal Weapon* I was a lumbering guy, a very safe cop who always said, 'You can't do that'. In *Predator 2* I'm agile and aggressive." To get into shape for the role, Danny lost twenty pounds and ran five miles a day on the beach. "I became a lean, mean fighting machine."

Kevin Peter Hall, all seven-feet-two of him, returns again to play the new Predator. Hall also played the large but lovable Bigfoot in *Bigfoot And The Hendersons*, and is set to repeat the role in a television series. He's also starred in a police thriller series we haven't seen on TV over here, called 227. It was on this show that he met and married series star Alaina Reed.

He and Alaina now have two (tall) children. The heights of their dog, RC and their budgie, Lunch, are not recorded!

In case you should think that Kevin Peter Hall is Hollywood's tallest current actor, he's only joint holder of the title. Granite-jawed Richard Kiel, who played Jaws in two James Bond films, is exactly the same height!

Producers
LAWRENCE GORDON/JOEL SILVER/
JOHN DAVIS

Director
STEPHEN HOPKINS

Screenplay
JIM THOMAS/JOHN THOMAS

Photography
PETER LEVY

Music
ALAN SILVESTRI

107 Minutes - Certificate 18
(20th CENTURY-FOX)

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|-----------------|------|-----------------------|
| Mike Harrigan | | DANNY GLOVER |
| Peter Keyes | | GARY BUSEY |
| Leona Cantrell | | MARIA CONCHITA ALONSO |
| Danny Archuleta | | RUBEN BLADES |
| Jerry Lambert | | BILL PAXTON |
| Capt Heinemann | | ROBERT DAVI |
| Garber | | ADAM BALDWIN |
| Capt Pilgrim | | KENT McCORD |
| Tony Pope | | MORTON DOWNEY JR |
| King Willie | | CALVIN LOCKHART |
| Predator | | KEVIN PETER HALL |



PREDATOR 2

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| RATINGS | PERFORMANCES 7 | DIRECTION 8 |
| SCRIPT 7 | PRODUCTION 8 | ENTERTAINMENT VALUE 8 |

VERDICT

● What with Columbian and Jamaican drug gangs ruling the streets of Los Angeles in 1997, and police getting mown down by the precinct, the last thing the city's finest need is an alien predator on the loose.

Yet that's just what they get and street cop Danny Glover's out to nail his ugly hide, even if it means getting in the way of a special unit led by Gary Busey, who knows the alien's on the loose but wants him alive.

The result is a thoroughly unpleasant but undeniably thrilling action film, with a fine cast giving sweatily good value to their abrasive roles. The last 15 minutes, with a just-one-thing-after-another construction, is particularly exciting stuff, even though it makes no sense. The film's closing line promises us *Predator 3* if we can stand the pace.

